

April 14, 2017

Kris Monteith
Acting Wireline Competition Bureau Chief
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Protecting and Promoting The Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92

Dear Ms. Monteith:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") *Open Internet Order*,¹ Hamilton County Telephone Co-op ("Hamilton County" or the "Company"), Study Area Code 341024, hereby notifies the Wireline Competition Bureau ("WCB" or "Bureau") of its intention to cease offering its DSL [and Consumer Broadband-Only Loop ("CBOL")] broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service effective July 1, 2017. As such, the transmission component will not be provided as a separate regulated service and will only be provided as part of the complete broadband Internet access service that the Company offers to end user customers within its Illinois serving area, either through the Company or through an affiliated company.

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op currently provides broadband Internet transmission service as a tariffed offering pursuant to NECA Tariff F.C.C. No. 5. The only customer for the Company's broadband Internet transmission service is the Company's affiliate nonregulated ISP. Notice to the affiliate ISP was provided this date by interoffice memorandum that the Company will discontinue the offering of broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service effective July 1, 2017.

The Commission made clear in the *Rate-of-Return Connect America Fund Order*,² as well as the *Clarification Order*,³ that a rate-of-return carrier could make the retail offering described in the foregoing

¹ *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5601, ¶ 460 and n. 1378 (2015).

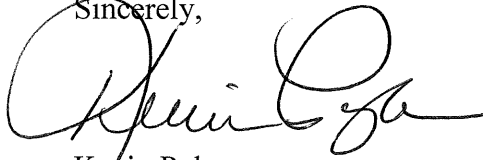
² *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 16-33, ¶ 194, n. 428 (rel. Mar. 30, 2016).

³ *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Order DA 16-661, ¶ 25 (WCB, rel. June 15, 2016) (citing the *Open Internet Order*).

first paragraph, and thus the revenues associated with the broadband Internet access transmission would no longer be subject to the federal universal service assessment pursuant to FCC Form 499-A.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Pyle", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Kevin Pyle
General Manager
Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

cc: Pamela Arluk, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau Pricing Policy Division
Special Assistant for Telecommunications at the Department of Defense
Illinois Commerce Commission
Office of Governor Bruce Rauner
National Exchange Carrier Association

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notification of Discontinuance of broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service was served this 14th day of April, 2017, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons:

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701

Office of Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

National Exchange Carrier Association
80 South Jefferson Road
Whippany, NJ 07981